

Claims:

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1. (New) An apparatus for sealing a puncture tract disposed within tissue, the apparatus comprising:  
a housing; and  
a plurality of needles coupled to the housing, the plurality of needles configured to penetrate tissue surrounding the puncture tract to deliver a closure agent into the tissue, thereby sealing the puncture tract.

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2. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an expandable member configured to be disposed within the puncture tract to stabilize the tissue during insertion of the plurality of needles.

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3. (New) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the expandable member is disposed from a distal end of a shaft coupled to the housing.

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4. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a stop configured to limit translation of the plurality of needles into the tissue.

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5. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an actuator coupled to the plurality of needles for selective translation of the plurality of needles.

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6. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the closure agent comprises a biodegradable substance.

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7. (New) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the biodegradable substance is chosen from the group consisting of a water swellable gel, collagen, a saline bolus, a slurry of a biocompatible substance, and combinations thereof.

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8. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the closure agent comprises an inflammatory substance that causes a localized inflammation response.

<sup>32</sup>  
9. (New) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the inflammatory substance comprises copper sulfate.

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10. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the closure agent comprises at least one balloon coupled to the plurality of needles.

<sup>34</sup>  
11. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the closure agent is coated onto the plurality of needles.

<sup>35</sup>  
12. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each one of the plurality of needles comprises a distal tip configured to penetrate the tissue, a distal aperture, and a lumen that couples the distal aperture to a source of closure agent.

<sup>36</sup>  
13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a radiopaque marker disposed adjacent to the distal tip of each one of the plurality of needles.

<sup>37</sup>  
14. (New) The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising a radiopaque band disposed on the distal end of the shaft.

<sup>38</sup>  
15. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the housing further comprises a manifold having an inlet port, the manifold in fluid communication with the plurality of needles.

<sup>39</sup>  
16. (New) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the plurality of needles are configured to translate with the manifold.

<sup>40</sup>  
17. (New) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the expandable member has a deployed configuration configured for engagement with an interior surface of a vessel.

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18. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of needles are coupled to the housing in a predetermined array.

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19. (New) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the predetermined array comprises an annular configuration.

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20. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the puncture tract has a first length and the plurality of needles has a second length extending distal of the housing, and wherein the second length is less than the first length.

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21. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a centering shaft adapted for placement in the puncture tract.

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22. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the plurality of needles and the housing are rigidly coupled to the centering shaft.

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23. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the plurality of needles and the housing are configured for advancement over the centering shaft.